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EFFECTS MEASURES TO CONTROL EPIDEMICS; REPORTS CURE FOR EMPHYSEMA

SURVEYS DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM -- Hankow Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 3 Apr 50

The prevention of the infectious disease epidemics in Hunan, Honan, Kwangtung, and Kiargsi provinces is being pursued in earnest by people's governments on all levels. The general situation in the above provinces and steps being taken to prevent further epidemics are as rollows:

General Situation

Hunan Province -- The outbreaks of intermittent and remittent fevers in Ch'i-yang, Heng-shan, Hsiang-yin hsiens in the last 6 months have resulted in a large number of deaths. In Ta-churg-nsiang and nearby areas in Ch'i-yang Hsien, more than 80 persons died from diseases during January. In Chih-yuanhsiang, Hsiang-yin Hsien, more than 1,000 died in the past half year. Many people in Li-mu-hsiang, Heng-shan Hsien, have also been reported suffering from infectious diseases. In scattered areas of Human Province, the outbreak of rinderpest is reported among work animals.

Honan Province -- In 106 villages in Hsu-ch'ang Hsien, more than 2,500 persons have been afflicted with meningitis, diphtheria, influenza, pneumonia, and measels; 40 deaths have been reported thus far. Epidemics of intermittent or remittent fevers have been prevalent in Nei-hsiang Hsien.

Kiangsi Province -- Smallpox and other diseases have been ravaging Hsiushui and Te-an heiens of Chiu-chicag Special Administrative District. In Hsiu-shui Hsien, more than 130 persons and in Te-an Hsien some 60 persons have died from diseases.

Kwangtung and Hupeh Provinces -- An outbreak of plague has been reported in Lei-chou Peninsula of Kwangtung Province and in the Chang-chia-chi area of Hupeh Province. Rinderpest epidemics among animals are also reported in the Fang-mei area of Huang-pei Hsien in Hupeh Province.

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Preventive Work

Honan Province -- An antiplague committee has been organized in Hsu-ch'ang Hsien to participate in preventive work and a propaganda campaign is in progress to educate the masses in the importance of maintaining sanitary measures. The committee has so far treated 2,300 persons for various diseases. In Nei-hsiang Hsien some 500 medical personnel have been organized into an antiplague unit which thus far has treated more than 2,100 persons and 3,450 head of cattle. In the above two hsiens, the basic causes for plague have already been eliminated.

Kwangtung Province -- Medical personnel of various public health offices of all levels have been organized into an antiplague battalion and are participating in preventive work in Lei-chou Peninsula. In one 2-week period, the battalion visited 70 villages to administer preventive inoculations to some 9,600 people.

Kiangsi Province -- Besides the preventive work being pursued by medical personnel of the public health department, the medical laboratory of the public health office, Kiangsi Province People's government, has produced 2,850 dozen calf vaccines and has distributed them among various affected area. Without charging fees, vaccinations are being given to people in Nan-ch'ang, Kan-chou, and Lo-p'ing hsiens. In Nan-ch'iang city alone more than 30,000 people have been vaccinated.

Hunan and Hopeh Provinces -- An antiplague unit, organized from medical personnel of the Hunan Province public health office, the Agricultural Research Institute of the Hunan Agricultural Office, the Hupeh Agricultural Office, and the veterinary school of the Fourth Field Army, is now working in the afflicted areas.

DESIGNATES CHO HSIEN FOR EXPERIMENTATION -- Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, 3 Apr 50

In October 1949, the Ministry of Public Health of the Central People's government of China designated Cho Hsien in Hopeh Province as the public health experimentation area of China. An antiepidemic medical battalion of the Ministry of Public Realth has been working in this area to make surveys and experiments. The experiences gained will be utilized to improve public health in various areas of China.

Work and surveys carried out by the battalion in the past 42 months are as follows:

Cho Hsien has 379 villages or farmsteads with a total population of more than 260,000. It has one small public hospital, 454 doctors practicing Chinese medicine and 67 practicing Western medicine, and more than 300 Chinese herb shops. Of the babies born during that period, 18,322 or about 40 percent died immediately after birth because of the improper and unsanitary methods used. The battalion also found many farmers suffering from intestinal and stomach disorders with more than 85 percent afflicted with hookworms.

To introduce better techniques in the delivery of babies, the battalion organized 158 classes and trained 1,880 midwives. After the training, three battalion surveys revealed that the new methods were used in the delivery of 964 out of 1,191 newly born babies. Of this group, Araths in cases where the new methods were used amounted to 9.2 percent, but where the old methods were followed deaths amounted to 33.5 percent.

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The battalion also selected one person from each village, making a total of 784, and trained them in public health techniques, such as prevention of infectious diseases. Each trainee was to return to his village to direct health programs. Village health committees were organized in inspect and direct sanitary measures ir each household.

The battalion has also enlisted the aid of teachers and students to help propagatidize the need of inoculations to prevent diseases, and has organized local medical personnel to continue the work started by the battalion.

PRODUCES EMPHYSEMA SERUM -- Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, 3 Apr 50

The Public Health Department of the Military Control Commission, Central People's government, recently succeeded in making cultures of emphysema blood serum to cure animals suffering from heaves or emphysema. At present, the facilities are being enlarged to manufacture large amounts so that more serum can be distributed to epizootic areas in China.

Last spring, an animal-disease epidemic was reported in the P'o-hai area of Shantung Province. At first the disease was diagnosed as anthrax. A group of epizoologists from the Epizootic Prevention Laboratory of the Public Health Department's veterinary school was dispatched to the affected areas. After a careful survey, it was discovered that the disease was not anthrax as it was first reported but heaves or emphysema.

A small amount of newly manufactured emphysema serum was sent to P'o-hai area as an experiment and proved to be very effective in combating the disease.

This group later went to Honan Province to combat a reported rinderpest outbreak. Here, too, it was found that animals were suffering from emphysema. The existence of heaves in Shansi Province was also reported by the same epizoologists.

By 29 March 1950, some 200,000 cubic centimeters of emphysema blood serum were produced and sent to the P'o-hai area. At present, facilities are being enlarged to produced more serum so that it can be made available in other animal-disease epidemics areas.

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